

	Public Art Policy
	STRATEGIC

1. Purpose

This policy outlines Warrumbungle Shire Council's commitment to ensuring that the vibrant arts and cultural life of the Shire is promoted and supported as an essential aspect of community well-being.

2. Objectives

To outline Council's commitment to work with local communities to develop and expand local arts and cultural activities, programs and events.

3. Policy Scope

This policy should be read and interpreted in conjunction with:

- WSC Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2032
- WSC Operational Plan and Delivery Program

4. Legislation and Associated Documents

ASSOCIATED POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022/2037 • Warrumbungle Shire Council Delivery Program • Warrumbungle Shire Council Operational Plan

5. Definitions

Public art is art in any media that has been planned and executed with the intention of being staged in the physical public domain, usually outside and accessible to all. Public art is significant within the art world, amongst curators, commissioning bodies and practitioners of public art, to whom it signifies a working practice of site specificity, community involvement and collaboration. Public art may include any art which is exhibited in a public space including publicly accessible buildings, but often it is not that simple. Rather, the relationship between the content and audience, what the art is saying and to whom, is just as important if not more important than its physical location (*Knight, Cher Krause (2008). Public Art: theory, practice and populism. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing*).

Public Art is one of many ways to recognise local artists and values whilst adding a new dimension to public spaces in the shire.

Public Art refers to works designed and created by artists located in a public space or facility, in both the built and natural environments. Public Art is conceived by an artist,

individually, in collaboration, or with community. It is generally site-related and place-responsive.

Public Art can be permanent or temporary and functional or non-functional. It can be any art form, including performance, sound, or light. Public Art is in parks, streets, foreshores, community centres, libraries and shopping centres – any publicly accessible space. It can also be the artistic elements within built forms for example doors, windows, handles, rugs or lighting. Public Art is not the same as community art. But a community art project can produce Public Art.

Public Art often involves the practice of ‘place making’ - a holistic approach to designing public environments - combining cultural, economic, social, indigenous, historic and environmental considerations and actively fostering collaboration between community, government, business, artists and design professionals.

Public Art is not:

- commercial promotions in any form;
- directional elements, signage;
- mass produced ‘art objects’ such as statutory or playground equipment;
- landscaping or generic hard scaping elements which would normally be associated with the project, and
- Services or utilities necessary to operate or maintain artworks.

(East Gippsland Shire Council (2009). *Public Art Policy*, East Gippsland Shire Council, 2009, p. 2-3)

6. Policy

6.1 Background

Warrumbungle Shire Council has expressed a commitment to ensuring that the vibrant arts and cultural life of the Shire is promoted and supported as an essential aspect of community well-being.

Item SC2 in the Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan states:

Long Term Outcome	Strategies to Achieve these Outcomes
SC2 Our local government area is home to vibrant arts, and cultural life is promoted and supported as an essential aspect of community wellbeing.	SC2.1 Work with local communities to develop and expand local arts and cultural activities, programs and events.

Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan states that indicators of progress are:

- The Shire hosts a range of high profile and well-patronised community, cultural and art events.

Source: Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022/2037, p. 26

6.2 Policy Statement

Warrumbungle Shire Council is committed to ensuring that the vibrant arts and cultural life of the Shire is promoted and supported as an essential aspect of community well-being.

Warrumbungle Shire Council is committed to working with local communities to develop and expand local arts and cultural activities, programs and events.

7. Responsibilities

The General Manager, along with relevant Directors, Managers and Staff, are responsible for working with local communities to develop and expand local arts and cultural activities, programs and events to ensure that the vibrant arts and cultural life of the Shire is promoted and supported as an essential aspect of community well-being.

Each Councillor is responsible to ensure that Public Art is adequately resourced and managed so that it is imbedded into whole of council processes; this may involve the fostering of a culture within Council that promotes best practice to ensure that Public Art is strategically planned and managed.

8. Getting Help

The staff member/s who can assist with enquiries about the policy:

- Director Environment and Development Services
- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Manager Economic Development and Tourism
- Manager Children's and Community Services
- Town Planner

9. Version Control

Next Review Date: September 2025

Staff Member Responsible for Review: Director Corporate and Community Services

Policy Name	Version No.	Resolution No.	Date
Public Art Policy	Endorsed	205/1516	18 February 2016
Public Art Policy	Endorsed	113/1718	21 September 2017
Public Art Policy	Review		